

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
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**United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky Names  
Robert T. Novick To E-Commerce Advisory Commission**

United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky appointed Robert T. Novick, Senior Counselor, to serve as her delegate to the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce established under the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

The Act directs the Commission to study Federal, State and local, and international taxation and tariff treatment of transactions using the Internet and Internet access and other comparable intrastate, interstate or international sales activities. The Act also provides that the study may examine barriers imposed in foreign markets and the effect of such barriers on United States consumers, the competitiveness of United States citizens providing property, goods, services, or information in foreign markets, and the growth and maturing of the Internet.

In making this appointment, Ambassador Barshefsky stated: "USTR will devote to this Commission its full energy and resources as it has to addressing the international tariff treatment of electronic commerce."

At the May 1998 World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial, Ambassador Barshefsky secured the support of all 132 member countries for a declaration to continue their current practices of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions. Ambassador Barshefsky has announced her intention of seeking to make this declaration permanent at the December 1999 WTO Ministerial meeting.